

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana reported that their meetings with the Department of Personnel Administration regarding the ALJ II classification were quite productive. DPA has agreed to grant the Board permanent authority to appoint up to 30% of its ALJ I workforce to the ALJ II level on a limited term basis during periods of high workload.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana also reported on the status of the following labor matters:

- CASE has filed a grievance against the Board, Department of General Services, Department of Justice, Department of Personnel Administration, and California Highway Patrol, regarding new security measures that were implemented at the Ronald Reagan building in Los Angeles, alleging that Unit 2 employees have been subjected to arbitrary and invasive searches to enter the building. The primary screening device that was implemented is metal detectors. The Board is only marginally involved in this grievance because some of its staff works in the Ronald Reagan building. The Board was not consulted with regard to implementation of the new security measures.
- CASE has requested to meet and confer with the Board on the issues of increased workload, mandatory splits, ALJ II specifications, and the Task Force.
- The Board has presented a counterproposal to CASE regarding its proposal for a Labor/Management Committee.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana stated that management is still working to obtain a pay increase for the Presiding Administration Law Judges, but that DPA is very resistant on this issue given the potential statewide implications.

Member Harris expressed his concern about the inequity this places upon the PALJs, and suggested that the Board send a letter to the Director of DPA citing the Board Members' full support for a pay increase. The Board voted unanimously to send such a letter.

7. Branch Reports:

a. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana reported that there was virtually no progress on the backlog of cases in January as there had been in December. The reason for the lack of progress is that registrations in December increased by approximately 3000. Although the field did not meet any of the time lapse standards, DOL has expressed its satisfaction with steps that are being taken to address the backlog. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana stated he is seeking additional exemptions from the Department of Finance to hire more staff. The appointments to the new ALJ II class should also help in the Agency's effort.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Jay Arcellana reported the appointment of two more ALJs, one in Pasadena and one in Orange County.

b. Deputy Chief ALJ Julie Krebs, Appellate Operations Branch, reported that Appellate Operations continued to meet all three time lapse standards, even with registrations up 11% and at the highest level since 1999. Chair Thornton commended Appellate Operations, and noted that current AO staffing is lower than it was in 1999.

Deputy Chief Krebs stated that she plans to pilot a voluntary mass calendar in Appellate Operations as another possible method to deal with the increasing workload.

c. Deputy Director Pam Boston, Administrative Services Branch, reported that the State Personnel Board has approved the new ALJ II specifications, and that the examination to establish the list for appointments would be conducted immediately.

Deputy Director Boston also reported the Board has received a commendation from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for its contributions to California's recycling efforts, and expressly recognizing Jennifer Burkhart for her work.

d. Deputy Director Mary Walton-Simons, Planning and Program Management Branch, reported her staff had provided software training in eight offices during the last month. In addition, the Budget Officer and staff has been conducting budget workshops for staff in preparation for the new budget year.

Deputy Director Mary Walton-Simons stated that her staff would be researching the possibilities for "web-conferencing" which has the additional advantage of enabling participants to work with the same document on a computer screen.

8. Chief Counsel's Report:

Chief Counsel Ralph Hilton summarized his two written reports concerning the court cases and Board member workload, noting that four new cases were served during the month of January, and seven cases were closed, all in favor of the Board.

9. Unfinished & New Business:

None scheduled or presented.

10. Public Comment:

None presented.

11. Closed Session:

The regularly scheduled Board meeting adjourned, and the Board went into closed session. No votes were taken on any matters in closed session.